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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

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27 May 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT

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ASIAN STATES DECRY U.S. LOS OBSTRUCTIONISM

LD131012 Moscow TASS in English 0853 GMT 13 May 82

[By TASS observer Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Moscow, 13 May (TASS) -- Irritation over the obstructionist position, taken by Washington at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea [LOS], is not concealed in many countries of the world, including Asia. Thus, the Malaysian press sharply criticizes the Reagan administration for stalling adoption of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The newspaper BUSINESS TIMES emphasizes that the negative actions of the United States at the conference are evidence showing that the United States obviously enjoys the part of "a difficult child" which tries to make the world community accept its demands.

President Reagan must at least realize, says the Malaysian NEW STRAITS TIMES which is in fact a semiofficial government publication, that the countries of the world "are not red Indians" which can be driven into reservations and forced to accept one's terms.

Governmental circles and the public of a number of Asian countries believe that Washington's search of allies, prepared to join the United States in the conclusion of a "mini-treaty" to the prejudice of the international agreement drafted, can but aggravate international tension. The attempts by the Americans to circumvent a treaty signed by the majority of countries, should be referred for consideration to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, as was suggested at the conference. Moreover, the demands were voiced to deprive Washington of the right of free passage through the straits.

It will be recalled that the Convention of the Law of the Sea is a major document in international law, called upon to become an effective tool for the development of fruitful cooperation in the use of the expanses of the seas and their resources, an effective instrument of strengthening peace and the law on seas and oceans.

Only four states, including the United States and its closest ally Israel, voted against the convention. Washington's negative stand conclusively proved that the United States does not strive for the development of equal cooperation in the world ocean, the White House imperial hegemonistic course, evidently, wholly and entirely fits in with the present adventuristic strategy of the United States in the world arena, a strategy designed to aggravate international tension and subvert the process of detente.

CSO: 5200/2077

USSR PAPER EXPLAINS SOVIET POSITION ON LOS TREATY

AU121302 Prague ZEMEDEL'SKE NOVINY in Czech 11 May 82 p 2

[Article by Josef Pesek: "Seabed Wealth for All"]

[Excerpt] A few days ago, at the end of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, a 180-page draft text of the new convention was adopted, which regulates all aspects of the use of all the world's seas and oceans and their natural resources. The most important point of the treaty, which was adopted in New York, is the prerequisite for setting up a new international agency which will control the exploitation and utilization of the seabed's rich sources of raw materials.

The negotiations were immensely complicated and lasted several years. The wealth of the seabed should serve all mankind -- this was the principle arising from the draft convention, on the formulation of which almost 150 states concurred and which was practically ready for signing a year ago. But almost in the twelfth hour everything was changed -- the new American delegation sent by the Reagan administration torpedoed the draft and rejected the demand that all oceans, with the exception of the coastal waters, be managed by an international agency, in which all states would have equal voting rights and which would determine the ceiling [uroven] and the manner of exploitation.

The American delegation substantiated its negative position by saying that the convention would allegedly restrict the activity of private entrepreneurship. The Americans came forward with the proposal of a "free" exploitation, in order that the big capitalist monopolies would be able to plunder without restriction the natural wealth which belongs to all mankind. The U.S. position is a quite clear assertion of imperialist hegemonism, which is taking the path of power interests and economic domination of big monopolies. And, of course, also of the Pentagon hawks, who want in this manner to ensure for themselves exclusive access to strategically important raw materials.

The stubborn position of the American delegation and the fact that some countries are approaching the question of the exploitation of the seas' mineral wealth one-sidedly, without waiting for an international accord, has led the Soviet Union to adopt measures which regulate the activity of Soviet organizations when prospecting for and mining mineral raw materials from the sea bed. However, the measures are of a temporary nature and the USSR will rescind them when the new convention on the Law of the Sea becomes effective. This is to happen before the end of the year, when the participants in the conference will meet in Caracas for the final session, at which the new convention on the Law of the Sea will be officially adopted.

CSO: 5200/2077

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

USSR-JAPAN SEAWEEED AGREEMENT--Moscow, 14 May (KYODO--The Soviet Union Friday agreed to extend for another year an agreement on Japanese seaweed gathering in waters around the Soviet-held Kaigara Island east of Hokkaido in northern Japan. Under the agreement, reached between the Soviet Fishing Ministry and the non-governmental Hokkaido Fisheries Association, Japanese fishermen can gather seaweed between June 1 and September 30. Japanese fishermen last year were allowed to gather tangle for the first time in five years since 1977 but actually worked for only one month because the agreement was reached late in August. A maximum of 30 ships were allowed to operate last year but the number this year was increased to 330, Japanese association officials said. They said the Japanese fishermen would pay yen 66 million in fishery fees to the Soviet Union, the same as last year. [Text]
[OW141151 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 14 May 82]

CSO: 5200/2077

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

DPRK RED CROSS REPORTS CAPTURE OF JAPANESE FISHERMEN

OW160642 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Tokyo, May 16, KYODO -- Twenty-five fishermen of two Japanese trawlers captured last Tuesday by a North Korean warship on the Yellow Sea for allegedly violating North Korea's military water frontier are all in good physical condition, it was learned Sunday.

This was made known in a report from North Korea's Red Cross Society to Japan's Red Cross Society. The North Korean side thus has officially confirmed the seizure of the two Japanese ships for the first time.

At around 9:40 a.m. May 11, the 114-ton trawler No. 85 Kyofukumaru of a fishery company in Fukuoka, Kyushu with 12 men aboard was captured by the North Korean vessel on the Yellow Sea.

Its fellow ship, the 114-ton No. 83 Kyofukumaru with 13 men on board became missing after sending a report that it would accompany the No. 85 Kyofukumaru, according to the maritime safety office at Fukuoka.

The two trawlers left Hakata port on February 13 and were scheduled to return to the port around May 20, maritime safety officials reported.

Two other ships of the same fishery company were captured by North Korea on May 5 last year for allegedly intruding into North Korean territorial waters, but were freed five days later.

Around the Yellow Sea, similar trawlers from Fukuoka were captured on April 25, but were set free about 17 hours later.

CSO: 5200/2077

JOINT NEW ZEALAND-JAPAN SURVEY OF TONGA TRENCH PLANNED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 17 Mar 82 p 16

[Text]

Herald Corres Tokyo

Japan and New Zealand will make a joint geological survey in search of resources in the little - explored Tonga Trench north of New Zealand, according to plans revealed in Tokyo last week by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency.

The entire geological and marine survey, which represents the first major scientific project to be undertaken jointly by New Zealand and Japan, is to be spread over five years.

The Governments of Australia and Indonesia will also take part.

Australia's interest lies in the New Britain Trench, in the Solomon Sea, south of New Britain. Indonesia is interested in the Sunda Trench, south-west of Sumatra.

Officially, the survey is intended to determine the complex undersea structure of the three trenches to find clues which might explain

their volcanic and earthquake movements.

A Japanese survey ship, to be commissioned for the project, will be equipped with devices that measure sea-bottom temperatures and collect sea-bed silt and other matter, evidence that natural resources are also a target of the survey.

The international affairs division of the science agency says the New Zealand Government has approved the Tonga Trench survey plans. These were proposed by the director-general of the agency, Mr Ichiro Nakagawa, during his visit to New Zealand last August.

Mr Nakagawa had requested New Zealand's cooperation from the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Shearer, who had described the proposals as "profitable."

The Japanese Government has already earmarked 62 million yen (\$310,000) for the Sunda Trench survey, from its 1982 budget. The survey will begin next year.

CSO: 5200/9087

INDIA

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC ZONE MINERALS--Madras, April 18--How much mineral wealth can India harness from its exclusive economic zone of 2 million square km in the Indian Ocean? At least 36,000 tons of manganese, 17,000 tons of iron, 3,600 tons of aluminium, 1,200 tons of cobalt and 10,000 tons of nickel, reports PTI, quoting an estimate mentioned by Dr Suryanarayanan, head of the Department of Area Studies at Madras University. He was speaking at a seminar here today. There are 7 billion tons of nickel, 4 billion tons of copper, 2.5 billion tons of cobalt, and 200 billion tons of manganese in the entire Indian Ocean according to the estimate. Oil resources are said to be abundant but unestimated. Live resources potential is 15 million tons a year, only one-fifth of which is utilized now. India gets 40% of its total (live) sea products from this ocean which accounts for Rs 200 crore of its annual foreign exchange earning. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Apr 82 p 6]

CSO: 5200/7038

INDONESIA

MOKHTAR HAILS SUCCESS OF SEA LAW CONFERENCE

BK041018 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1000 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Jakarta, 4 May (ANTARA) -- The decision of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to pass the sea law convention is a historic and very important event for Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said here Monday.

In an airport statement on his return from attending the conference in New York, he said the passage of the convention ensures that the Indonesian archipelagic state concept (wawasan nusantar) is elevated into a new international law, thus bringing the wawasan nusantara campaign on the international forum to a very satisfactory stage.

The convention, Mokhtar said, also guarantees Indonesia's interest with regard to international traffic in its straits, the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf and the extaction of mineral wealth on the international seabed. The acceptance of the archipelagic state concept in the sea law convention extends Indonesia's maritime territory by more than three million square kilometres, comprising an economic zone of 200 miles and 800,000 square kilometers of continental shelf, Mokhtar noted.

The conference, according to Mokhtar, proceeded as scheduled but had to take a decision, not by consensus, but by vote as proposed by the United States, with 130 countries in favor, four against and 17 abstentions.

He regretted the non-participation of the United States in the convention, which he said actually would benefit United States interests, particularly in the military field. He, however, expressed confidence that in due time the United States would join the convention.

The shining success of the conference, Mokhtar said, also pointed up the determination and goodwill of developing nations to cooperate with advanced countries for the establishment of the ideal of all mankind, international peace and welfare.

The Conference on the Law of the Sea was started in 1973. Mokhtar hopes that the convention which has been welcomed by many as a comprehensive and detailed regulation of how to use the seas and the natural resources therein, would be signed and ratified soon by the participating countries in order for the convention to come into force.

Asked for his views on the British-Argentinian conflict over the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands) Mokhtar said he continued to hope that the problem would be settled by negotiations.

CSO: 5200/2076

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

INDONESIA TALLIES MARITIME INTRUSIONS--Jakarta, 9 May (AFP)--An average 100 foreign ships, including submarines, enter Indonesian waters each year without permission or without prior notification, a fleet squadron commander was today quoted as saying. The figure was obtained as the result of air surveillance and detection operations during 1980 and 1981, the commander, Col Iman Taufiq, told the "KNI" News Agency. Most of the intruders were fishing vessels of which about 20 were detained annually. Most of them were caught in the rich fishing grounds off East Indonesia, the colonel said. [Text] [BK090844 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 9 May 82]

CSO: 5200/5653

JAPAN

JAPAN TO WORK OUT SEA LAW, SEABED EXPLORATION

OW010514 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Tokyo, May 1, KYODO--Japan will work out a law of sea and seabed exploration now that the United Nations has adopted an international law of the sea convention, the government said Saturday.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry said it hopes to introduce a bill for seabed exploration during the current Diet session.

Japan at present maintains only vague regulations for seabed development of manganese and other resources. And MITI officials consider the enactment of a clear domestic sea law a prerequisite to international bidding on such development programs.

Japan on Friday joined 129 other countries in adopting the U.N. convention covering rules for seabed mining development and the creation of a 12 nautical mile territorial sea area.

MITI hailed the U.N. convention which stipulated the validity of previous investment by Japan in a seabed mining development program in the South Pacific.

CSO: 5200/1

JAPAN

BRIEFS

U.S. FISH-QUOTA CUT PROTESTED--Tokyo, May 4, KYODO--Japan has filed a protest with the U.S. Government against its recent decision to drastically cut the Japanese fish catch quota within the U.S. 200-mile fishery zone, the government disclosed Tuesday. The protest was lodged with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige by Yoshio Okawara, Japanese ambassador to the United States, officials said. In the representation, the Japanese Government noted that the U.S. action is discriminatory against Japan, the officials said. When Japan and the United States agreed late last year to set the Japanese quota for this year at 1,148,000 tons, the U.S. Government was expected to allocate 25 percent of the annual quota to Japan for the second quarter, starting in April. But according to a notice received April 26, the U.S. Government allocated only 15 percent of the annual quota to Japan in this quarter, while allocating 25 percent of annual quotas to other nations like South Korea and West Germany. In the representation, the Japanese Government also complained that the U.S. Government was extremely slow in setting the second catch quota, according to the officials. [Text] [OW041301 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 4 May 82]

CSO: 5200/2076

PAPER FAVORS LAW OF THE SEA EVEN WITHOUT U.S. AGREEMENT

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 24 Mar 82 p 24

[Editorial: "Time and a Law of the Sea"]

[Text]

Time is running out over a new law of the sea. The eleventh session of the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference was to end this week, having met on March 9. Instead, the differences between the United States and many of the 150 other countries on the question of the mining of the deep seabed are so wide that there is no chance that the session will end according to plan. More troubling than the failure to keep to a timetable is the possibility that a new law of the sea will not be concluded at all, or if it is concluded, the United States will not be part of it. These possibilities would have serious implications for the international rule of law and would weaken the United Nations as an organisation.

It was understandable that when the Reagan Administration was elected in the United States it would want to examine the law of the sea which had been negotiated and was about to be signed. There was nothing secret about the text which had been arrived at by Republican Administrations as well as the Democratic Carter Administration. The United States dismissed the negotiators who had been working for it and appointed others. Then the United States delayed announcing its position for much too long — in fact, the position was not put formally until a couple of weeks before the present session began. When the position was announced as amendments to the text, some of the American proposals were found to be far-reaching and have proved unacceptable to the so-called "Group of 77," which includes the more than 77 Third World countries.

Efforts are now being made to find a compromise between the Group of 77 and the United States. However, it is inaccurate

to regard the United States as being pitted against the Group of 77; the United States is really arguing about a text that was negotiated over many years and acceded to by all the countries taking part.

New Zealand is a member of the group seeking a compromise; New Zealand takes seriously the establishment of a new law of the sea. The matter was also raised by New Zealand and Australia with the United States Secretary of State, Mr Alexander Haig, when he was in New Zealand last year for the A.N.Z.U.S. Ministerial talks. New Zealand is not directly concerned in the question of mining the deep seabed — it has neither the companies nor the technology to do that. Nor, as a developed country, is it likely to benefit from any profits made and shared under the concept of the deep seabed being the "common heritage of mankind." But New Zealand is unwilling to see the new law of the sea founder, as it were, on the mineral nodules on the deep seabed.

The points at issue relate to who should mine the deep seabed, and how it should be mined. The deep seabed is that area of the oceans that lies beyond any country's 200-mile zone or continental shelf. (The exploration for the mining of phosphorites in the Chatham Rise is within the 200-mile zone of New Zealand and is also on the continental shelf.) In 1970 the United Nations adopted, without dissent, a resolution declaring that there was an area of seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction which was to be the common heritage of mankind. The difficulty lay in mankind coming into its heritage.

Only a few nations had the technology to mine the deep seabed. In the end a

compromise was arranged under which an international authority would have rights to mine and be given the technology to mine, as well as companies of those countries which already had the money and technology. It is this parallel system, including the transfer of technology, representation on the council that will decide what the international authority should do, the control of production so that countries which already mine the minerals are not faced with a glut on the market, and the time of review of the arrangements, which the United States finds unacceptable.

For a while it seemed that the United States might get the European countries to join it in a separate treaty. Without those countries it was improbable that the Soviet Union would accept the treaty. However, it now seems that the United States is isolated in its position. It would be very unfortunate if the United States did not adopt the convention on the law of the sea, but a number of countries, almost certainly including New Zealand, are rapidly coming to the view that it would be better to have a new law of the sea to which the United States had not agreed than it would be to abandon the whole venture.

In earlier claims over 200-mile zones the United States showed a generosity and willingness to show respect for other countries' aspirations. It is a pity that the same spirit is not to be found at the moment. The claims that countries have made for 200-mile zones, the special provisions that have been made for countries, such as New Zealand, with large continental shelves, the rights of passage through straits and archipelagos, and the right to resources within Exclusive Economic Zones, are all matters of prime concern to New Zealand and to the smaller countries of the Pacific. It would be a tragedy if all the years of agreement and compromise were brought to nothing now.

CSO: 5200/9088

MORATORIUM IMPOSED ON ISSUE OF COASTAL FISHING PERMITS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 19 Mar 82 p 2

[Text]

Major problems in the domestic fishing industry have forced the Minister of Agriculture, Mr MacIntyre, to impose a moratorium on the issue of commercial fishing permits from midnight last night.

Mr MacIntyre said yesterday several coastal fisheries were under stress because recent large increases in the number of permits issued had meant too many fishermen were competing for the available resource.

"This has caused fish populations to become strained through heavy fishing pressure," he said.

Mr MacIntyre said the moratorium in itself would not solve the problems, but it would stabilise the industry while other management measures were introduced to reduce the number of permits on issue.

Extension

The moratorium is declared under the controlled fisheries extension order, which came into force yesterday.

No further permits will be issued for all wetfish except tuna, and all shellfish, except squid, caught by any method in the territorial sea, internal waters

and all inland freshwaters, Mr MacIntyre said.

"Areas outside the 12 mile limit which are closed to joint venture and foreign licensed vessels, but open to domestic vessels, and vessels fishing for southern bluefin tuna in area G of the exclusive economic zone are also covered by the moratorium," he said.

Stability

The move is designed to stabilise fishing effort throughout New Zealand's domestic fishery and allow time for longer-term management measures to be put into place. It has the support of the Fishing Industry Board, the Share Fishermen's Association and the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen.

Anyone with a current fishing permit will not be affected by the moratorium, Mr MacIntyre said. Existing permits would be renewed automatically.

"However, people wishing to change fisheries, fishing methods or vessels will have to meet certain criteria before the change is allowed," he said.

"No permits will be issued to allow new fishermen, or fishermen without a current permit, to enter any fishery unless they meet one of the specified criteria."

GREAT SOUTH BASIN OIL EXPLORATION APPLICATIONS WEIGHED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 24 Mar 82 p 3

[Text]

Oil exploration in the Great South Basin is likely to get a further boost next month when the outcome of applications for exploration licences in the area is announced.

The Ministry of Energy is considering applications for licences in 10 survey blocks.

Tenders for the licences closed last month and ministry officials said yesterday that they expected a decision early next month.

Work Programmes

The officials are maintaining strict confidentiality over the number and nature of the applications received.

The applications are being judged on the basis of the work programmes planned by prospective explorers. Programmes of maximum work in the shortest time are likely to be favoured.

And the ministry does not wish successful applicants to know the strength of their competition.

It is expected that seismic survey work would take up to two years before drilling by successful licence appli-

cants began.

The Minister of Energy, Mr Birch, said yesterday that "conservative calculations" indicated the potential offshore reserves of oil gas around New Zealand were between 15,000 million and 20,000 million barrels.

A major contribution to that total could come from the Great South Basin, he said.

"Largely Guesswork"

The Hunt Petroleum Company and its partners had dominated oil and gas exploration in the basin for some time, said Mr Birch, and three of Hunt's seven wells had shown promise.

The licence applications now being considered reinforced the potential of the area.

Some oil industry sources later advised that Mr Birch's assessment of New Zealand's potential offshore oil reserves should be received with caution.

The figure of up to 20,000 million barrels was one which some geologists had come up with, they said, but it was based largely on guesswork.

CSO: 5200/9088

ADOPTION OF LAW-OF-THE-SEA TREATY URGED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 Apr 82 p 4

[Text]

Pakistan has proposed that States adhering to the international convention on the law of the sea should be permitted to make reservations on provisions governing the right of access to and from the sea by landlocked countries. The move forms part of the formal debate to achieve a general consensus on the texts leading to the adoption of the convention by the end of the month. Since sovereignty over territorial waters rests with the coastal states the participation of landlocked countries in the living resources of the exclusive economic zone cannot be recognised as a matter of right. Inclusion of this principle in the draft convention is necessary for application in some limited areas that are not international in character. Resources near the coast belong to the coastal State and that is why the concept of the 200-mile economic zone has been universally acclaimed. Given the obligations of coastal States towards the protection of benefits yielded by the sea, it is important that maritime activities of a landlocked country be governed under

bilateral arrangements with the said States. Germane to the principle recognising national jurisdiction over territorial waters is the right of coastal States to safeguard their security interests. The free and unrestricted movement of warships and submarines in different bodies of water obviously arouses the concern of littoral and hinterland States. In keeping with its policy of building a tension-free international environment, therefore, Pakistan was co-sponsor of only one minor amendment dealing

with the passage of warships through straits under the territorial control of coastal States. Pakistan has demanded that the coastal States should be empowered to enact laws and regulations requiring authorisation or notification for a foreign warship to pass through their territorial waters.

These proposals echoing the concern of many developing countries are aimed at further strengthening the convention negotiated in an endeavour to create norms of international law applicable to areas outside

national jurisdiction and the governance of resources of the area declared to be the common heritage of mankind. But the United States and six other countries have submitted amendments seeking to revise the convention in order to place themselves in an advantageous position. The changes sought by the advanced States relate to exploitation of the sea-bed. The developed countries possess the technology to exploit trillions of dollars worth of sea-bed resources. The underdeveloped nations want the proposed Sea-bed Authority to function as an international mining company in which all countries will have proprietary interests. The advanced States, however, are insisting that the

sea-bed authority should merely be a licensing body, getting a royalty for leasing out areas under the high seas to private mining companies. Attempts to bring about changes in the text can undo an eight-year effort to prepare the sea code. The adoption of the proposed law of the sea convention would be a significant step towards creating an atmosphere of international peace and security. It would also pave the way for the establishment of a new world economic order. The developed countries, realising the importance of the document for peace would do well not to insist on the inclusion of amendments in the text at this late stage.

CSO: 5200/5655

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

'RENMIN RIBAO' VIEWS U.S. POSITION ON LAW OF SEA

HK041300 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 4 May 82 p 7

[Article by Wang Shifang [3769 1102 2455]: "Retreat Is No Way Out -- the Reagan Administration Suffers a Setback for its Obstinate Stand at the Law of the Sea Conference"]

[Text] After repeatedly following a tortuous course and overcoming various obstacles, the "draft convention of the law of the sea" was eventually adopted at the 11th Session of the 3d UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. The fact that this longest marathon session in the history of the United Nations could score the present achievements was the result of the unity and cooperation of the broad masses of participating nations, the Third World nations in particular, in carrying out their protracted struggle against the superpowers which have attempted to dominate the sea.

The draft convention, which was adopted after 9 years of repeated consultations, reflects the demands and principled stand upheld by the Third World nations for a long time: Every coastal state can establish 12 nautical miles of territorial sea and have sovereign rights to the waters for up to 200 nautical miles outside its territorial sea with regard to economic activities. It has been particularly affirmed that "the international seabed area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind." This convention pays attention to the interests of the developing nations, the developed nations as well as coastal and land-locked states. Therefore, it is a comparatively rational international convention which is acceptable to most countries.

Originally, this draft convention should have been adopted at the 10th session held in March or August of last year. However, due to obstacles raised by the Reagan administration, which had just taken power, on the pretext that further discussion and consideration were needed prior to its approval of the draft convention, the session was put off till this year. At that time, in accordance with the conciliatory spirit for settling disputes through negotiation, the broad masses of the Third World nations accepted the demands of the United States and agreed to listen to the opinions put forth by the United States on the revision of the draft convention at the future session. At the same time, they also stressed that any proposal which attempted to revise the principles of the draft convention was unacceptable. However, after a year of examination and consideration, at the 11th Session of the Conference on the Law of Sea held on 8 March, the Reagan administration issued a "green paper" which attempted to make 230 amendments to the draft convention. To deal with this matter, Alvaro de Soto, chairman of the "Group of 77" and Peruvian delegate, pointed out that the U.S. "green paper" violated the spirit of the declaration of the law of the sea adopted by the UN General Assembly held in 1970 because it attempts to downgrade the International Seabed Authority into an organ which can only formulate regulations or issue licenses for exploitation without any power to exercise control over exploitation activities, because it rejects the ideas that the International Seabed Authority is a decisionmaking body which can exercise real power, and that it is the duty of industrial countries to transfer exploitative technology to the authority and developing countries. In a word, as revealed by the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, the purpose of the United States "is to bid for the power to

freely exploit seabed resources of the oceans of the world so that the benefits will go to those corporations and countries which carry out the exploitation work." Therefore, De Soto solemnly declared that the "Group of 77" would not accept the amendments proposed by the United States.

This stand by the United States was criticized by other participating countries. Some developed countries also expressed their discontent. The TIMES of England said: "Even sympathetic Western countries were embarrassed at the undisguised and uncompromising tactics of the Reagan administration for the sake of their own interests."

To extricate itself from isolation at the conference, the Reagan administration slightly modified its attitude. It lowered some of its original requirements and abandoned part of the revised draft. At the same time, the Third World nations and some developed nations put forth some proposals for revision and made some compromises. This paved the way for the final adoption of the draft convention.

It must be pointed out that although the Reagan administration modified its stand, it did not make any further advancement. It still insisted that six amendments be made to the draft convention's seabed provisions regarding the exploitation of deep sea and seabed resources. It also declared that if these amendments are not made, the draft convention would not be approved. What are the contents of these six amendments? According to the TIMES, they can be summarized into the following two points: 1) In reality, the United States wants to completely control the exploitation of deep-sea resources. 2) The United States will have the power to veto any activities proposed by the International Seabed Authority. In short, the United States has attempted to deny the principle that the international seabed area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind.

It must be pointed out that the previous three U.S. administrations of Nixon, Ford and Carter did not maintain a basically antagonistic attitude toward the content of the present "draft convention on the law of the sea" on the question of the mining of seabed resources. Therefore, the present stand adopted by the Reagan administration amounts to a negation of the stand of the three previous U.S. administrations. This cannot be considered other than a kind of retrogressive action. At the same time, the Reagan administration has also announced that it is prepared, after the rejection of its amendments, to immediately conclude a "minor treaty" with seven industrially advanced countries including England, France, West Germany and Italy and oppose the draft convention outside the conference.

According to the disclosure of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, certain officials of the State Department and industrial circles believe that even if there is no treaty (or 'draft convention on the law of the sea'), the mining of seabed resources will not be obstructed because the United States can sign a unilateral agreement with other industrialized countries of the West to protect its investment in the mining industry." A former important U.S. representative who took part in the talks of the Law of the Sea Conference also said that certain officials of the Reagan administration are not very keen on the signing of a treaty, and they would rather have no treaty. This unwittingly revealed the secret of why the Reagan administration has so obstinately stuck to its own views and why it has clashed with the countries of the Third World! At present, the United States has cast a dissenting vote in the balloting of this convention at the Law of the Sea Conference. This shows that we must still continue to wage a struggle for safeguarding the rights of various countries to develop mineral resources in international seabed areas, safeguarding the aim and principles of the convention, and thereby establishing a new order in sea law.

However, the passing of the "draft convention on the law of the sea" shows that the Reagan administration has underestimated the strength of Third World nations. Tommy Koh, the representative from Singapore and chairman of the Law of the Sea Conference, predicted a year ago that no matter how the United States may oppose it, the "draft convention on the law of the sea" will be passed next spring. Now this prediction has finally become a reality. It has dialectically proved that any country which attempts to resort to the old tactics of the gunboat policy of a century ago and ignores the legitimate interests of the Third World will definitely get nowhere. Only by adopting a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation and by means of holding consultations and negotiations will we be able to settle all international disputes.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BEIJING RADIO VIEWS DRAFT CONVENTION ON LAW OF SEA

OW080207 Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 6 May 82

["International Current Events" program commentary: "First Step in Establishing a New Order of the Sea"]

[Excerpts] On 30 April, the 11th Session of the 3d UN Conference on the Law of the Sea adopted by an overwhelming majority vote the draft convention on the law of the sea, thus taking an important step toward establishing a new law and order of the sea. The convention's coming into being is the result of the protracted struggle of Third World countries for equal rights to the sea and against the superpowers' domination of the oceans.

In the course of the formulation of the convention on the law of the sea, the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, placed obstacles and employed tricks on a series of important issues of principle, attempting to force their maritime hegemonist trash on others. For example, the Soviet Union and the United States tried their utmost to limit and reduce the width of territorial waters, opposed the establishment of 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones, advocated free passage through straits, attempted to exploit and monopolize international seabed resources at will with their money and advanced technology, and so forth. So the struggle was very complicated from the beginning of the conference.

The 11th Session of the 3d UN Conference on the Law of the Sea was convened on 8 March this year. The United States put forward a green paper at the meeting, proposing 230 amendments to the draft convention, including many changes that involved matters of principle. This disgusting U.S. attitude in violation of the spirit of the conference naturally met with opposition by Third World countries and also incurred dissatisfaction and criticism from other participating countries at the conference. The United States voted against the draft convention. It still clung to the six amendments it proposed with regard to provisions in the convention concerning exploitation of deep seabed resources. It indicated that unless the amendments are accepted, the United States would not ratify the convention. The six amendments insisted upon by the United States in fact deny the principle that the seabed under international waters is the hereditary property of all mankind and are aimed at enabling the United States to exploit deep seabed resources without restriction. The Reagan administration also threatened that if the U.S. amendments were rejected, the United States was prepared to sign a small treaty to oppose the draft convention outside of the conference with seven industrial countries including Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and so forth.

These facts show that to establish a new law and order of the sea to safeguard equal rights for all countries, many obstacles remain to be overcome and it is necessary to continue the struggle. However, in the source of events from the drawing up to the final adoption of the draft convention on the law of the sea, it can be seen that no country will ever succeed in attempting to ignore the Third World's legitimate interests and seek maritime hegemony. Only by adopting a lawful and cooperative approach and by consultations and negotiations will it be possible to resolve disputes.

TAIWAN

BRIEFS

NANSHA ISLANDS FISHERIES--Makung, Penghu--A government plan for the development of fisheries on the Nansha Islands has been put into practice. The experimental ship "Haifu" of the Taiwan Provincial Aquatic Products Experimental Institute is currently conducting a survey of aquatic resources in waters off the Nansha Islands to gather data for the development of fisheries by fishermen-settlers in the future. The ship "Haifu" left Keelung on 24 April for Nansha to conduct a survey of aquatic resources in waters there. The ship is scheduled to return to the port in mid-May. Hu Hsing-hua, director of the Penghu Branch of the Taiwan Provincial Aquatic Products Experimental Institute, said: The experimental ship "Haifu" has a crew of more than 20 persons, most of whom are fishery experts. Hu Hsing-hua, who participated in working out the plan for developing marine resources in waters off the Nansha Islands, indicated that a difficult problem to be solved now is to build communication facilities on the Nansha Islands in order to ensure communications between the islands and Taiwan. Due to the lack of such facilities, he said, he now had no way of knowing about the operations of the ship "Haifu" in waters off the Nansha Islands. Measures for carrying out the government plan for developing fisheries in waters off the Nansha Islands include a survey of aquatic resources, the building of a fishing port and supply facilities on Taiping Island, one of the Nansha Islands, and encouraging fishermen to settle on the islands. [Text] [OW101239 Taipei LIEN HO PAO in Chinese 5 May 82 p 2]

CSO: 5200/2076

THAILAND

'NATION REVIEW' DISPLEASED BY LAW OF SEA TREATY

BK050225 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 5 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Thailand Must Counter Law of the Sea Curbs"]

[Excerpt] There has been eight years of wrangling over the Law of the Sea and it finally came to a vote and was passed by a thumping majority. However, it is passing strange that one superpower, the United States, voted against it while the other superpower, the Soviet Union, abstained. Thailand, for abstaining, could be accused of being in the shady company of Belorussia and Ukraine, but looking at it from another point of view, Thailand is in good company with Britannia who once ruled the waves and is now ruling the South Atlantic. No, we do not want to appear supercilious but Thailand's objections to the Law of the Sea in its present form has nothing to do with the objections of the United Kingdom or the Soviet Union.

It is not within the scope of this space to analyse the Law of the Sea which contains 320 articles covering a whole range of the rights of nations to exploitation of the sea and the seabed and even landlocked countries like Laos, Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Austria, etc, had a say in the matter. The primary question is that the exploitation of the resources of the seabed require high technology and only a few countries like the U.S., Western Europe and Japan fall into that category. The U.S. did not agree because she wanted her superior technology to rule. Japan agreed because she saw quick profit by cooperating with underdeveloped countries. The Soviet Union abstained because she does not have the technology but at the same time did not want to go along with the U.S.

Thailand's problem has nothing to do with all this. According to the Law of the Sea every nation claims 12 miles of territorial waters and 200 miles as economic zone. Thailand can make no such claim because Burma, Malaysia and Kampuchea, making equal claims, can make this country as good as landlocked and that is why this newspaper had to indulge in the neologism of "sealocked." It is not necessary here to recapitulate the problems our fishermen have had with Burma, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, etc. But the problem is Thailand, once the fifth largest fishing nation in the world, is deeply hurt by the Law of the Sea. As a matter of fact we still haven't proclaimed the 200 mile economic zone because such a move may hurt us more.

Thailand has an opening to the east into the Pacific Ocean and an opening to the west to the Indian Ocean. In this part of the world, we have the finest fishing fleet and the most experienced and aggressive fishermen. But if they are to be hamstrung by international conventions, the government has to find some sort of an escape for them. Thailand cannot fish in international waters as easily as the Japanese or Soviet fishing fleet which are accompanied by factory ships which process the fish as soon as they are caught. But the government must also recognize that the high expertise of our fishermen should not be lost. They should not be reduced to poaching, exposing themselves to the gunboats of neighboring countries and frequently languishing in foreign prisons.

Now that we have the Law of the Sea and there is nothing we can do about it, it is high time that our government worked out a strategy which conforms with the regulations set forth therein. Possibly the spadework has already been done since Thailand had expected an unfavourable conclusion some year ago. And if there is a plan -- we have every reason to think there is -- we do not see any point in putting it off.

CSO: 5200/2077

'PRAVDA' COMMENTS ON APPROVED LAW OF SEA DRAFT

AU071243 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 6 May 82 p 7

[Commentary by Josef Janto: "Fault of Those Greedy of Profit"]

[Text] As is known, the recent 11th session of the third UN Law of the Sea Conference approved in its conclusion the draft text of a new agreement on solving the main problems of the world seas, especially the extraction of raw materials from the seabed. For several years more than 150 UN member countries have been working on this draft convention. Finally, at last year's 10th session, the delegations of socialist, developing and capitalist countries were able to note that they had prepared a good basis for a successful conclusion of many years work.

The draft convention (it consists of about 500 articles) contained compromise solutions of the main problems, and all that remained to be done was to give the final touch to the wording of the individual provisions. The draft provided for the solution of complex problems concerning coastal waters, international straits, the 200-mile economic zone, continental shelves and the seabed outside the borders of such shelves. Besides establishing stable conditions for the development of sea navigation, fishing and the extraction of raw materials from the seabed, it also formulated the urgency of the struggle against sea pollution and so forth.

When everything was virtually clear, the United States (to be more accurate, the new White House administration) came up with more than 40 amendments which it wanted to smuggle into the convention. Their main aim was to ensure the right for American supranational monopolies to engage in uncontrollable extraction of raw materials -- copper, nickel, cobalt, manganese -- from the seabed. The White House did not even bother to wait for the convention's approval and, using the channels of the U.S. Congress, unilaterally approved a bill allowing private American companies to exploit resources from the seabed.

This cynical approach naturally called forth great indignation all over the world. With this stubborn act, Washington unscrupulously swept off the table the results of many years of efforts by the majority of states. The new draft of the convention's text that has just been approved contains, indeed, some additional important provisions -- for example about the right of landlocked states to have access to the sea, which is the culmination of their efforts of more than 50 years to have this right recognized -- but the amendments adopted as a result of U.S. pressure favor only the main capitalist countries. In spite of this, the United States voted against the convention's approval. It finds even that which it usurped to be too little, though some delegations yielded to its pressure only to prevent the work on the convention from going completely to waste.

Yet this discriminates against many states on the world seas, S. Kozyrev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, noted on that occasion. That is why the Soviet Union abstained in the voting. However, guilty of the foiled joint work and its results are those greedy of profit -- American supranational monopolies and those striving to assert their interests in international relations.

POLAND

EFFECT OF FALKLANDS FIGHTING ON FISHING EXPLAINED

LD121038 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0500 GMT 12 May 82

[Marek Szelewicki report Gransk]

[Text] A number one subject of foreign agency dispatches is, of course, the conflict over the Falkland/Malvinas. The development of events in that part of the world is being followed particularly attentively by our fishing enterprises. I would like, as briefly as possible, to tell you why our deep-sea long-range fleet is awaiting anxiously the speediest possible settlement of the Argentine-British dispute. I often come across the question of whether there is really anywhere for us to fish. It turns out that possibilities of penetration are indeed limited. As a result of the American restrictions our fishing vessels had to leave the traditionally exploited fisheries of the North Atlantic and the North Pacific. They were sent to the sub-Arctic zone which was surveyed by scientific research vessels just a few years ago.

At the beginning of this year a very large flotilla of Polish fishing vessels appeared in the area of the Falklands and South Georgia. At the time when the conflict erupted there were about 40 of them. The imposition of the 200-mile military zone has caused the loss of yet another fishery ground. One figure alone indicates clearly its significance: Last year fishing on the waters of the Falklands and South Georgia accounted for one-fifth of the entire catch of the Polish deep-sea fleet, and that is a great deal. Hopes for a further exploitation of those waters might turn out to be futile, since every month our fishing fleet must move closer and closer to the Falklands, following shoals of fish, something that is impossible in the present situation.

This is why the quantities of deliveries of fish to our tables depends on the course of the conflict in this southern region of the world. As you can see yourselves, grand politics also affects our menu.

CSO: 5200/2076

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ECUADOR-U.S. TUNA TALKS--Orlando Alcivar, minister of industries, commerce and integration, will travel to Lima to meet with a U.S. foreign trade official. The goals of his visit are to restore the U.S. tuna market which was closed 1 1/2 years ago; to discuss a bill being considered in the U.S. Senate, which would establish a tariff on Ecuadorean shrimp exports; and to talk about the problem that Ecuadorean exports will face when Panama Canal tolls are raised at the end of the year. Here are Alcivar's statements: [begin recording] Basically, I want to get the tuna market with the United States opened again and to secure special treatment for our ships in the Panama Canal this year. However, I want to note that, in this regard, the regulations that control navigation in the Panama Canal allow no preferential treatment for any ship, regardless of its country of origin or any other factor. Therefore, this will not be an easy matter. [end recording]. [Text] [PA112356 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 May 82]

MARINE RESOURCES STUDY--The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), in co-operation with the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, is hosting a two-week regional Marine Resources Workshop from April 19 to 30, at the Institute of Marine Affairs, Chaguaramas. The participants represent the English-speaking Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent as well as Trinidad and Tobago. The participants will be involved in an intensive programme of laboratory and field studies involving the development of skills to survey marine plants and animals for potential commercial significance. The Workshop will aim at developing a uniform method of study and cataloguing so that data from any island could be readily interpreted by workers from another. According to Dr. Desmond Ali, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Science Council, the Caribbean islands need to know what is in their coastal waters, where it is exactly, how much of it is there and its growth potential; only then can they study successfully the marine plants and animals in their region and establish the potential for commercial utilisation. The participants will learn methods of identification of marine life and ways of preserving unidentified species for later study. They will also receive training in safety aspects of diving, care of diving equipment, kinds of equipment needed for such survey work and the need for proper supervision. Another outcome of the Workshop will be to assist the participants in designing pilot projects for developing a marine products industry--work which they will continue in their home waters after the Workshop. This Workshop will also provide an information network among the islands to further develop marine resources. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 82 p 3]

CHILE

STATUS OF BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS VIEWED

Government Worried

PY180525 Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 16 May (AFP) -- President Augusto Pinochet stated here that the procrastination in solving the dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel, in the extreme south, is worrying the Chilean Government.

In the field of foreign relations, one of the greatest concerns is the status of this conflict, which now subject to mediation by Pope John Paul II, has had no solution so far even though Chile has accepted the papal proposal for a solution, General Pinochet stated in an interview in the Santiago paper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA.

The pope was designated mediator in January 1979, when the two countries were on the verge of war, and 23 months later the pope presented a proposal for a solution which has not yet been accepted by Argentina, the paper said.

Negotiations Unaffected by Falklands Conflict

PY050315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0139 GMT 5 May 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 May (AFP) -- Chilean Ambassador to the Vatican City Hector Riesle stated here that the conflict over the Malvinas Islands in the South Atlantic will not affect the negotiations between Chile and Argentina to overcome the dispute over the Beagle Channel, in which Pope John Paul II is acting as mediator.

We must look hopefully at the reactivation of the mediation process, Ambassador Riesle stated at the end of a meeting with President Augusto Pinochet. The ambassador added that what is happening between Argentina and Great Britain does not directly affect the talks which are developing.

Riesle briefed the chief of state directly on the new dynamics acquired by the mediation as of 23 April when Pope John Paul II received the delegations of the two countries and urged them to begin the preparation of a treaty which will put an end to the conflict.

The ambassador indicated that he will return to Vatican City within the next few hours.

CSO: 5200/2076

BRIEFS

SURINAME FISHING LICENSES--Forty-one Guyanese fishermen have been granted fishing licences from the Suriname authorities in Nickerie to continue their fishing trade in the Corentyne River. The fishermen who operate with small outboard motorboats are members of the Upper Corentyne Fishermen's Co-operative Society at Corriverton. A few more persons who are also involved in fishing in the Corentyne river are expected to travel to Nickerie over the week-end to renew their licences. A senior officer of the Fishermen's Co-operative Society said that so far no problem has been encountered by any of its members who had renewed their boat licences to carry on with their legal business. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 82 p 1]

CSO: 5200/7535

FISHING, OIL, SHIPBUILDING TO BE PRIORITIES IN OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

Paris LA NOUVELLE REVUE MARITIME in French Mar 82 pp 92-96

[Presentations given by Minister of State for Scientific Research and Technology Jean-Pierre Chevenement and Minister of Maritime Affairs Louis Le Pensec on 2 Mar 1982]

[Text] Coordination of Oceanographic Research--Joint Presentation by Messrs Chevenement and Le Pensec on 2 March 1982

The Stakes and the Priorities

In the course of the coming decades, the sea will take on increasing importance in the life of mankind, both as regards the living, energy and mineral resources that will be extracted from it and in terms of the increase in maritime traffic and the development of activities in the coastal zones with their precious and fragile equilibriums.

The government, aware of these stakes for France, and especially for its overseas departments and territories, has decided to increase the research and technological development effort that it intends to devote to this sector, and at the same time to consolidate the public apparatus that will ensure its coherence. This effort is, in effect, based on a common stock of scientific and technical knowledge specific to the milieu of the sea.

In order to do this, it is important for the priorities and target dates to be defined clearly:

--in the short term, the essential economic stakes lie in the development of maritime fishing (in which our external deficit is higher than Fr 3 billion), of exploitation of continental-shelf oil, and of shipbuilding. Research and technological development will be given preferential effort in these areas;

--in the medium term, aquaculture with new species should be able to result in sizable production quite rapidly. In the areas of exploitation of deep oil, mining of metallic nodules, and development of the hydrothermal sources and the thermal energy of the seas, there should be studies and preparatory research aimed at establishing technical feasibility and determining the economic interest.

Development of the littoral and monitoring of the environment of the coastal zones should be prepared for more particularly by an augmented research effort;

--finally, the entire fundamental and exploratory research effort must lead--beyond the partial results that may be applicable in the short term--toward establishment of the models of the entirety of the marine mechanisms and the sedimentary and tectonic phenomena, knowledge of which is indispensable to the earth scientists and to development of applications.

"Ocean engineering," which groups the activities relating to underwater electronics and acoustics, naval architecture and shipbuilding, the equipment for underwater penetration, deep-water construction and maritime engineering, has to be developed especially. The techniques for rational exploitation of the sea, such as farming concentrations of living resources (fish, crustaceans, algae, etc), will also have to be given special support, with establishment of closer links between the laboratories and professional experimentation.

Organization at the Level of the State and the Mission of the Public Organisms

In order to carry on effectively this complex of research and technological-development activities, an organization that ensures good articulation between the actions of the state and the activities of the various public organisms is being set up in accordance with the following modalities:

--interministerial coordination of the major orientations and of the means, through the meeting, on a joint basis, of the interested members of two existing committees (the Interministerial Committee on Scientific and Technical Research and the Interministerial Committee on the Sea);

--conduct of the purpose-directed programs (hydrocarbons, nodules, fishing, aquaculture, environment) under the control of the technical ministries responsible for the sectorial policies;

--a system of flexible and effective coordination instituted between the organisms and the administrations in the form of a committee for coordination of the programs of marine research and technology;

--systematic consultation of scientific experts within a scientific council on oceanography placed under the minister of scientific research and technology.

As regards the CNEXO [National Center for Exploitation of the Oceans], which will be relieved of its role of coordination of oceanography, which has proved incompatible with its other functions, its missions as a research and technological development organism will be reoriented and reinforced. It will be called on to continue, with increased means, the execution of the programs of fundamental, exploratory and applied research that it has gone into in coordination with other organisms, activation of the big resources of general interest and exploitation of the research. In particular, it will be called on to:

--conduct on a priority basis, in close liaison with the organisms and professions concerned, a greatly increased effort in development of marine technologies capable of being used in the activities of fishing, offshore oil and shipbuilding, as well as in the new sectors of application;

--give particular attention to development of the littoral, the coastal environment and preparation for exploitation of the 200-nautical-mile economic zone;

--be in a position to provide prime contractorship over complex projects of general interest that may bring different public and private partners into association;

--develop its capacity to originate and develop the future programs of oceanic research and technological development, bringing the scientific and industrial circles, as well as the potential users, into close association in them.

To advise the Establishment [as published] on the technological programs, a Technical and Industrial Council will be created, under its chairman.

The Scientific and Technical Institute of Maritime Fishing is to recommence a vigorous research and development effort in favor of fishing and the traditional kinds of marine cultivation. It is to open up to collaboration with the outside. The measures relating to its status, the organization of its missions, its recruiting and its resources are to be decreed during 1982.

As regards ORSTOM [Bureau of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research], which plays an important role in the sector of tropical-zone ocean sciences, especially in the overseas territories, better articulation with the national organisms and better utilization of its competencies are to be sought.

Finally, for the whole of the laboratories coming under the universities or the CNRS [National Center for Scientific Research], the Interdisciplinary Oceanographic Research Program (PIRO) will be given, within the framework of the reforms under study, powers enabling it to carry out its role fully and be a representative interlocutor vis-a-vis other organisms and administrations.

Mr Le Pensec's Comments on the Priorities in Oceanographic Research

The government has created, within the framework of its own organization, a double structure for coordination of oceanographic research: a functional-coordination structure, which the minister of state for scientific research and technology is in charge of, and a spatial-coordination structure for which the minister of maritime affairs is responsible.

The justification for the spatial coordination lies in the homogeneity of the marine milieu, the unity of status of the men of the sea, as well as in the specificity of the techniques of marine exploitation.

This double structure very logically leads to shared oversight vis-a-vis the specifically maritime research organisms, the ISTPM [Scientific and Technical Institute for Ocean Fishing] and the CNEXO, as well as to joint responsibility for activation of the coordination structures. Without prejudging the work and the conclusions that these coordination structures may lead to, it is useful to note two important orientations of oceanographic research:

--development of ocean engineering as an instrument for mastering the marine milieu;

--improvement of the techniques for development of the sea as an area of concentration of living resources.

Developing Ocean Engineering as an Instrument for Mastering the Marine Milieu

Under the term "ocean engineering" can be grouped the activities relating to underwater electronics and acoustics, naval architecture and shipbuilding, the equipment for underwater penetration, deep-water construction and maritime engineering.

Ocean engineering constitutes a technological-research slot especially well-suited to a developed country such as France that presently occupies a certain advanced position, notably in the area of exploitation of the deep marine bottoms--an advanced position that it should take advantage of by accentuating its research efforts. Ocean engineering also presents the advantage of producing fallout in the sectors of maritime activity as a whole, whether offshore oil is involved, mining of polymetallic nodules, deep-water farming or shipbuilding.

Affirmation of the unity of the ocean-engineering technologies should make it possible to create a continuous front of knowledge, ensuring that the discoveries made in one branch of maritime activity rapidly flow into the other sectors of activity. By way of example, our techniques of underwater investigation must be able to be used to improve the effectiveness of the active fishing equipment. Likewise, progress in fish-farming technology can benefit shellfish-farming. Also in the same way, knowledge acquired in the area of naval architecture can be used to advantage in the designing of marine structures as a whole.

Development of intersectorial technology transfer will ultimately ensure a more homogeneous progression of all marine activities. That is why it is envisioned, within the framework of the preparation of the program-law on research, that the theme of ocean engineering be approached through a program of "ocean" technological development.

Improving the Techniques for Development of the Sea as a Repository of Living Resources

The sea will play a more important role in feeding people tomorrow, as regards both fishing and marine farming (protein of marine origin presently represents about 15 percent of mankind's food supply).

With reference to fishing, it is urgent to develop research on rational management of the natural stocks, in order to eliminate a harvesting system by which, today, both the capital and the interest of the sea are being withdrawn, whereas rational management of the stocks would make it possible to fill the needs for consumption by tapping the increasing surpluses only.

As regards marine farming--the unity of which should be stressed, whether it involves the cultivation of shellfish or algae or fish-raising--a phase of technological transfer to the benefit of the professionals should be actively initiated.

With a lag of 10,000 years, the sea is presently undergoing its neolithic revolution. But no one knows how the mutation that led to the domestication of animals occurred 10,000 years ago. In any case, to be sure, it was done without the support of research organisms and had to go forward on the basis of a pragmatic methodology based on trial and error and observation of nature.

As regards the sea's living resources, it appears desirable to assign a more important place to experimentation in the field, and consequently to establish closer links between the activity of the laboratories--which is obviously indispensable--and professional experimentation.

11267

CSO: 5200/2067

NATIONAL INTERESTS SEEN AT STAKE IN LOS ISSUE

Athens I AVGI in Greek 15 Apr 82 p 5

/Text/ The basic problems of the Law of the Sea [LOS] Conference, in session in New York since 8 March, concern the "heart" of the North-South relations and the search for an equitable economic order on a world scale and in such a way that the exploitation of the seabeds with their rich minerals will be to the benefit of all mankind and especially the poorer countries.

It must be noted that from the very beginning the conference assumed the character of an intense clash between the developing countries and the United States. The Reagan administration, moreover, did not at all want to hide its hostile attitude toward the third world countries. It is for this reason that it reacted against the proposals for transferring to these countries the technology which would make them capable of exploiting the undersea area. In fact, the U.S. is not interested in an international agreement for exploiting the ocean resources but in an agreement between the great western powers. The Pentagon was particularly interested in a treaty which would guarantee the "free passage" of fleets and aircraft through the straits and the extraction of strategic ores from the bottom of the oceans such as cobalt and magnesium which at present they get from unreliable countries.

The U.S. is also interested in safeguarding the interests and participation of multinational companies in the exploitation of the undersea wealth. "They would not be interested," they argue, "in facing another consortium like OPEK which the developing countries could form albeit with the approval of the UN Assembly in which they have a majority."

This purely imperialistic and aggressive policy has met with strong opposition. The developing countries made it clear that they would oppose any solution which would practically secure "only the mutuality between the industrial powers for the exploitation of the sea bottoms" and would contest as unacceptable--as a representative of the 122 third world countries stated--an agreement "which would provide a one-sided exploitation of a mankind heritage in the undersea depths to those states which have the know-how and the ability to undergo the necessary expense at the expense of the states which lack such capabilities."

The conference, now in its last and critical phase, directly concerns our country also, not only because it has a large sea area but also because of Ankara's

designs in the Aegean and its position that the Greek eastern Aegean islands ostensibly lack their own continental shelf and are located on the Turkish one while the Greek territorial waters must be limited to 6 miles, regardless of the conference's decision which sets the territorial waters at 12 miles (a measure Turkey already applies to its northern Mediterranean shores and the Black Sea).

We believe that the Greek side which must defend so many vital national interests in the conference will also contribute to the solution of the controversial problems--a solution which will provide a more equitable relationship between North and South, a fact which will also be in the interest of our country.

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